

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

February 23, 2016

Agreement with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust to Construct the Washington Avenue Tot Lot Park

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) recently completed a Community Park & Recreation Plan (Plan) for the unincorporated community of East Rancho Dominguez. Through the process of developing the Plan, DPR confirmed a severe deficit of parkland within the community. East Rancho Dominguez Park, the only existing park in the community, is approximately 5.5 acres in size. The Los Angeles County General Plan established a goal of four acres of local parks per 1,000 residents; with a population of approximately 15,000 residents, East Rancho Dominguez only has approximately 0.4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents, a figure significantly below the General Plan standard. This has left many residents with limited access to recreational opportunities or dependent on parks outside their community for green space.

To address this concern, DPR is working with a variety of stakeholders to identify potential open space and recreational opportunities. As part of this process, on January 6, 2014, the County of Los Angeles acquired from the Community Development Commission a 16,448 square-foot vacant lot located at 15614 S. Washington Avenue in order to create a new park to serve the East Rancho Dominguez community.

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DPR has been working closely with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) to design and construct a new park on this property. LANLT is a non-profit organization whose mission is to grow healthier, safer and stronger communities by creating small, accessible urban parks and gardens that help remedy the critical lack of green and recreational spaces in the underserved neighborhoods of greater Los Angeles, and to ensure participation and collaboration among residents in the parks and gardens that they create.

In consultation with the surrounding community, DPR and LANLT determined that the best use of this site would be to build a “tot lot”, which is a playground designed especially for young children up to five years of age, which will serve as the hub for programs and classes for parents and children to prepare them for school, utilizing a variety of education, health, nutrition, and exercise programs. Specifically, the proposed Washington Avenue Tot Lot Park (Park) will include play equipment, a splash pad, paving, fencing, a public restroom, and landscaping – all designed to attract, educate and inspire the youngest members of the East Rancho Dominguez community.

The total cost of construction of the Park is \$715,000. LANLT received a grant from First 5 LA in the amount of \$600,000, and \$115,000 of Proposition A Specified Excess Funds available to the Los Angeles County Second Supervisorial District will be used to construct the Park.

In order for this partnership to move forward, a Licensing Agreement must be executed between DPR and the LANLT to delineate the responsibilities and obligations of each party. As specified in the Licensing Agreement, LANLT will be responsible for constructing the Park, and DPR will be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Park once construction is complete.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according Sections 15303(e) and 15304 (a)(b) of the State

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CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3(b), and 4(a) (c) of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by the Board on November 17, 1987.

2. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) to enter into a Licensing Agreement with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, upon approval as to form by County Counsel, that details the joint roles and responsibilities of both agencies, for the development of the Washington Avenue Tot Lot Park (Park), located at 15614 S. Washington Avenue, in unincorporated East Rancho Dominguez, with the Park to be constructed and fully funded by funds raised by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust at an estimated donated cost of \$715,000;
3. Authorize the Director to accept the Park on behalf of the County of Los Angeles when construction is completed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust in a manner that is satisfactory to the Director; and
4. Delegate authority to the Director to take all other actions necessary to complete the proposed completion of the Park and acceptance thereof.

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